



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

A

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/719,370	12/11/2000	Jean-Pierre Martiniere	324-137	6471
7590	07/26/2005			
Lowe Hauptman Gopstein Gilman & Berner Suite 310 1700 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER	
			PATEL, ASHOKKUMAR B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	
DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAILED

JUL 26 2005

Technology Center 2100

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/719,370

Filing Date: December 11, 2000

Appellant(s): MARTINIERE, JEAN-PIERRE

Allan M. Lowe
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed May 24, 2005.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

A statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal is contained in the brief.

(3) *Status of Claims*

a. The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is incorrect.

A correct statement of the status of the claims is as follows:

This appeal involves claims 12, 14-24 and 26-32.

Claims 12 and 24 have been amended subsequent to the final rejection

Claims 33 and 34 have been cancelled subsequent to the final rejection.

b. 1) Pre-examination amendment of 12/11/2000 replaced original claims

1-11 by claims 12-23.

2) In the non-final rejection dated 2/25/2004, claims 12-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (US 6, 288, 716).

3) In the two subsequent amendments, dated 5/24/2004 and 6/24/2004, after the non-final rejection, new claims 24-34 were added.

4) In the final rejection dated 09/24/2004, claims 12-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (US 6, 288, 716).

- 5) In the after-final amendment dated 12/27/2004, claims 13, 25, 33 and 34 were cancelled and the subject matter of cancelled claims 13 and 25 were added to claims 12 and 24 respectively.
- 6) And in response to the after-final amendment, an advisory action dated 04/04/2005 was issued providing the detailed explanation of the relevant teachings of the reference Humpleman et al. (US 6, 288, 716) for argued claimed elements which was essentially the subject matter of the previously rejected and cancelled claims 13 and 25.
- 7) Therefore, the final rejection in conjunction with the elucidation provided with the advisory action is providing the rejection of the claims 12, 14-24 and 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (US 6, 288, 716).

c. The amendment after final rejection filed on December 27, 2005 has been entered.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Grounds of Rejection*

The statement of the grounds of rejection contained in the brief is incorrect.

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim 1, 13-24 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (US 6, 288, 716). This rejection is set forth in a prior Office Action, mailed on 09/24/2004.

* * * * *

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 12-34 are subject to examination.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed May 25, 2004, June 24, 2004 and July 27, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:
 - a. The Applicant's argument that "In rejecting independent claim 12, the Office Action repeats Applicant's claim language and then refers to numerous portions of Humpleman et al., but never explains the relationship between the operation of the Humpleman et al. browser-based command and control home network to the steps set forth in Applicant's independent claim 12. In other words, the Office Action never indicates what structures of Humpleman et al. are allegedly analogous to the plural primary equipment units and the manager equipment unit of claim 12." is not only completely illogical, but also irrational since it raises a question: Why this examiner pointed out columns and lines are there at where they are in the reference?

b. The responses to arguments provided below are intended to merely enhance the understanding of the teachings of the reference Humpleman, and by no means the responses are intended to change the ground of rejection.

Referring to claim 12,

The reference Humpleman teaches a method of functionally linking plural primary equipment units and a manager equipment unit likely to communicate with all the primary equipment units (Fig. 5A, "In such an embodiment, it could be considered that the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the home network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.", col.5, lines 18-23, col.13, lines 52-60),, comprising:

a preliminary step of storing presentations of equipment units in memory in the respective units or in the manager equipment unit, the presentation of each equipment unit including at least one link to a function of the equipment unit (col.6, lines 61 thru col.7, line 20, The reference teaches" As previously mentioned, each home device is associated with one or more Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) files. The HTML files define the control and command functions associated with a particular home device. Each HTML file may also contain embedded references to other HTML files. The browser based DTV 102 (acting as a client), receives and interprets the HTML files associated with the home devices (acting as servers) and graphically displays the respective control and command information on its viewable display." Thus, a preliminary step of storing presentations of equipment units in memory in the respective

units or in the manager equipment unit, the presentation of each equipment unit including at least one link to a function of the equipment unit);

recovering or selecting in said manager equipment unit the presentation of a given primary equipment unit (Fig.5A and Fig.12A, The reference teaches "A client-server relationship exists among the attached devices, with the DTV 102 typically behaving as the client and home devices DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and security system 120 behaving as servers."(col.6, lines 57-60)(Thus, recovering or selecting in said manager equipment unit the presentation of a given primary equipment unit); and

linking said given primary equipment unit to said manager equipment unit and said already-linked other primary equipment units by composing a home page at said manager equipment unit (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13), the home page being composed by using at least (a) the presentation of said manager equipment unit (For example, DTV, element 406 in Fig. 5A) (b) the presentations of the other primary equipment units already linked (For example, DVD and DVCR in Fig. 5A) , and (c) the presentation of said given primary equipment unit (For example Dads TV in Fig.11) (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13, col. 13, lines 15-67 and col.14, lines 1-25, The reference clearly depicts the claimed elements.)

Referring to claim 13,

In response to Applicant's argument that "In addition, claim 13 appears to distinguish over Humpleman et al. by requiring downloading a home page from the manager equipment unit into any the primary equipment units to form a home page for all the

equipment units in order that the primary equipment units can carry out the functions of the other primary equipment units and the manager equipment unit. Attorney for applicant is unable to find any disclosure of the foregoing limitations in the portions of the Humpleman et al. referred to in the third full paragraph on page 3 of the Office Action, i.e., the portion of the Office Action directed to claim 13.", the reference teaches a method according to claim 12, including a step of downloading the home page from said manager equipment unit into any of said primary equipment units to form a home page for all the equipment units in order that said primary equipment units can carry out the functions of the other primary equipment units and the manager equipment unit. (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13,, "In such an embodiment, it could be considered that the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the home network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.", col.5, lines 18-23, col.13, lines 52-60, col.14, lines 27-36)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent,

Art Unit: 2154

except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. (hereinafter Humpleman)(US 6, 288, 716).

Referring to claim 12,

The reference Humpleman teaches a method of functionally linking plural primary equipment units and a manager equipment unit likely to communicate with all the primary equipment units (Fig. 5A, "In such an embodiment, it could be considered that the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the home network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.", col.5, lines 18-23, col.13, lines 52-60),, comprising:

a preliminary step of storing presentations of equipment units in memory in the respective units or in the manager equipment unit, the presentation of each equipment unit including at least one link to a function of the equipment unit (col.6, lines 61 thru col.7, line 20, The reference teaches" As previously mentioned, each home device is associated with one or more Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) files. The HTML files define the control and command functions associated with a particular home device. Each HTML file may also contain embedded references to other HTML files. The

browser based DTV 102 (acting as a client), receives and interprets the HTML files associated with the home devices (acting as servers) and graphically displays the respective control and command information on its viewable display." Thus, a preliminary step of storing presentations of equipment units in memory in the respective units or in the manager equipment unit, the presentation of each equipment unit including at least one link to a function of the equipment unit);

recovering or selecting in said manager equipment unit the presentation of a given primary equipment unit (Fig.5A and Fig.12A, The reference teaches "A client-server relationship exists among the attached devices, with the DTV 102 typically behaving as the client and home devices DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and security system 120 behaving as servers."(col.6, lines 57-60)(Thus, recovering or selecting in said manager equipment unit the presentation of a given primary equipment unit); and

linking said given primary equipment unit to said manager equipment unit and said already-linked other primary equipment units by composing a home page at said manager equipment unit (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13), the home page being composed by using at least (a) the presentation of said manager equipment unit (For example, DTV, element 406 in Fig. 5A) (b) the presentations of the other primary equipment units already linked (For example, DVD and DVCR in Fig. 5A) , and (c) the presentation of said given primary equipment unit (For example Dads TV in Fig.11) (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13, col. 13, lines 15-67 and col.14, lines 1-25, The reference clearly depicts the claimed elements.)

Referring to claim 13,

The reference teaches a method according to claim 12, including a step of downloading the home page from said manager equipment unit into any of said primary equipment units to form a home page for all the equipment units in order that said primary equipment units can carry out the functions of the other primary equipment units and the manager equipment unit. (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13, “In such an embodiment, it could be considered that the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the home network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.”, col.5, lines 18-23, col.13, lines 52-60, col.14, lines 27-36)

Referring to claim 14,

A method according to claim 12, further including displaying each presentation in several display modes, and displaying said home page in each equipment unit in at least one of the display modes used in said each equipment unit.

The reference Humbleman teaches the method. (col.13, lines 23-67, col. 14, lines 1-12, Figs. 6 and 7, , Fig.8, Fig. 10).

Referring to claim 15,

A method according to claim 12, wherein the presentation of one of said equipment units in said home page includes a departure anchor of a hyperlink toward a page of functions read in said one equipment unit and including links to functions of said one equipment unit.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (Fig. 10, Fig. 11, col. 13, lines 15-67 and col. 14, lines 1-25).

Referring to claim 16,

A method according to claim 12, including, at the time of a first connection of one of said primary equipment units to said manager equipment units to said manager equipment unit, dynamic address allocation to said one primary equipment unit by said manager equipment unit and transmission of the address by said manager equipment unit to said primary equipment units with said home page.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (col.10, lines 60-67, col.11, lines 1-59).

Referring to claim 17,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of composing a home page is performed at least partly outside said manager equipment unit in secondary means connected to said manager equipment unit via a telephone network or local network.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (Fig. 14, col. 21, lines 1-63).

Referring to claim 18,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of composing a home page comprises distributing equipment unit presentations into daughter pages and forming a mother page with hyperlinks to the daughter pages.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (col. 13, lines 15-67, col.14, lines 1-25).

Referring to claim 19,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of composing includes composing home pages by the manager equipment unit, loading said composed home pages into

primary equipment units, each of said home pages including the presentation of the respective primary equipment unit and presentations of applications in said manager equipment unit dedicated to the respective primary equipment unit.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (col.11, lines 22-59).

Referring to claim 20,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of composing includes composing a home page only with the presentations of said other primary equipment units already linked and the presentation of said given primary equipment unit, and downloading the homepage from said manager equipment unit into all said primary equipment units as the home page for all said primary equipment units.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (col. 6, lines 61-67 and col. 7, lines 1-25, col.11, lines 22-59, col. 10, lines 51-58, col. 19, lines 3-9).

Referring to claim 21,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said manager equipment unit and said primary equipment units are interconnected via one of the following wireless transmission system and a carrier current transmission system, and are respectively a terminal adapted to be connected to a telephone network and electronic devices.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (col. 1, lines 21-36 and 45-50, col. 5, lines 50-61, and Fig. 1 and Fig. 14).

Referring to claim 22,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said manager equipment unit and said primary equipment units are interconnected via one of a wireless transmission system and a

carrier current transmission system, and are respectively a microcomputer and terminals, the terminals being connected to a telephone network.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (col. 1, lines 21-36 and 45-50, col. 5, lines 50-61, and Fig. 1 and Fig. 14).

Referring to claim 23,

A method according to claim 12, wherein said manager equipment unit and said primary equipment units are the central processor unit of a microcomputer and electronic cards connected to a bus of said central processor unit.

The reference Humpleman teaches the method. (Abstract, col. 1, lines 21-36 and 45-50, Fig.1, col. 6, lines 11-23).

Referring to claim 24,

The reference teaches, in combination: plural primary equipment units arranged to be functionally linked and a manager equipment unit for communicating with all the primary equipment units, the primary equipment units or the manager equipment unit having a memory for storing presentations of the equipment units, the presentation of each equipment unit including at least one link to a function of the equipment unit(Fig. 5A, "In such an embodiment, it could be considered that the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the home network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.", col.5, lines 18-23, col.13, lines 52-60),, said manager equipment unit being arranged for recovering or selecting the presentation of a given primary equipment unit((Fig.5A and Fig.12A,

The reference teaches "A client-server relationship exists among the attached devices, with the DTV 102 typically behaving as the client and home devices DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and security system 120 behaving as servers.", col.6, lines 57-60), said manager equipment unit being arranged for (a) linking said given primary equipment unit to said manager equipment unit and said already linked other primary equipment units by composing a home page at said manager equipment unit, and (b) composing the home page by using at least (a) the presentation of said manager equipment unit, (b) the presentations of the other primary equipment units already linked, and (c) the presentation of said given primary equipment unit composing the home page at said manager equipment unit. ((Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13, col. 13, lines 15-67 and col.14, lines 1-25, col.8, lines 28-42, The reference clearly depicts the claimed elements.)

Referring to claim 25,

The reference teaches the combination of claim 24, wherein the manager equipment and the primary units are arranged for causing downloading of the home page from said manager equipment unit into any of said primary equipment units to form a home page for all the equipment units in order that any of said primary equipment units can carry out the functions of the other equipment units. (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13., "In such an embodiment, it could be considered that the physical device fetches a GUI from itself. However, in other embodiments the home network interconnects separate physical devices, wherein for example, a first device fetches a GUI from a

second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.",
col.5, lines 18-23, col.13, lines 52-60, col.14, lines 27-36)

Referring to claim 26,

The reference teaches the combination of claim 24, wherein each of the equipment units includes a display for (a) displaying each presentation in several display modes, and (b) displaying said home page in each equipment unit in at least one of the display modes used in said each equipment unit. (col.13, lines 23-67, col. 14, lines 1-12, Figs. 6 and 7, Fig.8, Fig. 10).

Referring to claim 27,

The reference teaches the combination of claim 24, wherein each of the equipment units is arranged for causing the presentation of one of said equipment units in said home page to include a departure anchor of a hyperlink toward a page of functions read in said one equipment unit and including links to functions of said one equipment unit. (Fig. 10, Fig. 11, col. 13, lines 15-67 and col. 14, lines 1-25).

Referring to claim 28,

The reference teaches the combination of claim 24, wherein said manager equipment unit and said primary equipment units are arranged to be interconnected via a wireless transmission system or a carrier current transmission system, and are respectively a terminal adapted to be connected to a telephone network and electronic devices. (col. 1, lines 21-36 and 45-50, col. 5, lines 50-61, and Fig. 1 and Fig. 14).

Referring to claim 29,

The reference teaches the combination of claim 24, wherein said manager equipment unit and said primary equipment units are arranged to be respectively interconnected via a wireless transmission system or a carrier current transmission system, and are respectively a microcomputer and terminals, the terminals being connected to a telephone network. (col. 1, lines 21-36 and 45-50, col. 5, lines 50-61, and Fig. 1 and Fig. 14).

Referring to claim 30,

The reference teaches the combination of claim 24, wherein said manager equipment unit and said primary equipment units are respectively the central processor unit of a microcomputer and electronic cards connected to a bus of said central processor unit. (Abstract, col. 1, lines 21-36 and 45-50, Fig.1, col. 6, lines 11-23).

Referring to claims 31 and 32,

The reference teaches a method according to claim 12, wherein the manager equipment unit includes a browser that performs the recovering or selecting step, and the combination of claim 24, wherein the manager equipment unit includes a browser for recovering or selecting the presentation of the given primary equipment unit. (col.6, lines 66 thru col.7, lines 1-3,"The browser based DTV 102 (acting as a client), receives and interprets the HTML files associated with the home devices (acting as servers) and graphically displays the respective control and command information on its viewable display.")

Referring to claims 33 and 34,

The reference teaches a method according to claim 12, further including downloading the home page to any of the primary equipment units which are able to carry out the control functions of the other equipment units and as a result of the manager equipment unit composing the home page with at least the already-linked primary equipment units, and the combination of claim 24, wherein the manager equipment unit is arranged for composing the home page with at least the already-linked primary equipment units and to download the home page to any of the primary equipment units which are able to carry out the control functions of the other equipment units. (Figs.5A, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12A, 12B and 13, col. 13, lines 15-67 and col.14, lines 1-25)

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok B. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John A Follansbee can be reached on (703) 305-8498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

* * * * *

(7) Argument

The statement of the arguments contained in the brief is correct.

(8) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) Response to Argument

Applicant's argument:

B. Humpleman et al. does not anticipate because it does not disclose home page downloading as claims 12 and 24 require.

"Nothing is said about downloading a home page from the client devices to devices that are equivalent to the claimed primary equipment units (i.e., devices 104, 108, 110 and 120 of Humpleman et al.) to form a home page for all the other equipment units so the primary units can carry out the functions of each other and the client device."

"Based on the forgoing, Humpleman et al. does not anticipate impendent claims 12 and 24. Consequently, dependent claims 14-23 and 26-32, that are rejected as anticipated by Humpleman et al., are allowable."

Examiner's response:

Humpleman teaches in col. 11, line 50-55, "In certain configurations, a plurality of home devices with DHCP server capabilities may exist on a single home network. Therefore, in certain embodiments, an arbitration protocol is employed to select and designate a particular home device to function as the DHCP server for the home network." Thereby the reference teaches that the third device (106) is not needed.

Humpleman teaches in col. 6, line 10-23, "In this example, the DTV 102 provides the human interface for the home network 100 by employing browser technology to allow users to control and command the home devices over the home network 100. Unlike most other home devices that are typically connected to a home network, the DTV 102 can provide the human interface for the home

network 100 as it comprises a screen for displaying HTML pages. However other home devices having a display capability may be used to provide the human interface. Thus, in certain embodiments of the inventions, a device such as a personal computer ("PC") is used to provide the human interface for a respective home network, as a PC typically embodies a screen display unit."

Humbleman teaches in col. 6, line 54-67 through col. 7, line 3, "As depicted in FIG. 1, DTV 102, DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and security system 120 represent home devices that are currently connected to the home network 100. A client-server relationship exists among the attached devices, with the DTV 102 typically behaving as the client and home devices DVCR 110, DVD 108, DSS-NIU 104 and security system 120 behaving as servers.

As previously mentioned, each home device is associated with one or more Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) files. The HTML files define the control and command functions associated with a particular home device. Each HTML file may also contain embedded references to other HTML files. The browser based DTV 102 (acting as a client), receives and interprets the HTML files associated with the home devices (acting as servers) and graphically displays the respective control and command information on its viewable display."

Humbleman teaches in col. 7, line 49-58, "As previously stated, each home device connected to the home network has one or more associated HTML files. The HTML files for a respective home device define the control and

command functions for that particular home device. Each HTML file may also contain embedded references to other related HTML files. A device connected to the home network that has a viewable display (e.g., screen) and employs the browser technology may receive and interpret the HTML files associated with the home devices connected to the home network, and graphically display the information contained therein using a GUI on its screen."

Humbleman teaches at col. 5, line 21-23, "a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device."

Thus, Humbleman teaches two devices interacting, one being a primary equipment among the primary equipment units and the other being a manager equipment and any of the primary equipment downloads the home page from the manager equipment unit into any of said primary equipment unit: to form a home page for all the equipment units in order that said primary equipment units can carry out the functions of the other primary equipment units and the manager equipment unit. (col. 5, line 21-23, col. 6, line 10-23 and line 54-67 through col. 7, line 3, col. 7, line 49-58, col. 11, line 50-55).

Applicant's argument:

C. Humbleman et al. does not disclose the requirements of claims 14 and 26.

"Consequently, Humpleman et al. does not disclose displaying each home page in each equipment unit in at least one of several display modes used in such equipment unit."

Examiner's response:

In conjunction with the response provided for "B." as stated above, please also refer to Hampleman, col. 13, line 23-67, col. 14, line 1-12, Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 10.

Humpleman also teaches in col. 16, line 13-20, "When the user selects a home device button 712, the session manager obtains the particular capabilities of the selected home device. The particular capabilities of a home device includes a list of standard named functions that the respective home device is capable of performing, e.g., the capabilities of a DVCR generally include "accepting video" and "displaying video."

Thus, Humpleman teaches "displaying each home page in each equipment unit in at least one of several display modes used in such equipment unit." (col. 13, line 23-67, col. 14, line 1-12, Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 10, col. 16, line 13-20).

Applicant's argument:

D. Humpleman et al. does not disclose the requirements of claims 17.

"Humpleman et al. has no disclosure in Fig. 14 or. 21, lines 1-63. of using the macros or the Internet to compose a home page that links a given prime equipment unit (e.g., DVD 108 of Humpleman d al.) to a manager equipment unit

(i.e., digital TV 102 of Humpleman et al.). Consequently, claim 17 is improperly rejected."

Examiner's response:

First of all, Claim 17 recites "A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of composing a home page is performed at least partly outside said manager equipment unit in secondary means connected to said manager equipment unit via a telephone network or local network."

Humpleman teaches at col. 5, line 21-23, "a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device.", as well as in col. 21, line 1-10, "As depicted in FIG. 14, in certain embodiments an Internet proxy 1104 is used to provide an interface between the home network 1100 and the Internet 1102. By providing an interface between the home network 1100 and the Internet 1102 a user can remotely control home devices connected to the home network 1100. For example, if a user is required to work late and is therefore unable to watch the Monday night football game, the user can program a DVCR connected to their home network via the Internet, in order to record the particular event."

Thus, Humpleman teaches "composing a home page is performed at least partly outside said manager equipment unit in secondary means connected to said manager equipment unit via a telephone network or local network." (col. 5, line 21-23, col. 21, line 1-10).

Applicant's argument:

E. Humpleman et al. does not disclose the requirements of claims 18.

"The final rejection says Humpleman et al. discloses this feature at col. 13, line 15-col. 14, line 25. While col. 13, line 34 mentions hyperlinks, there is nothing in the relied on portion of Humpleman et al. about the remaining limitations of claim 18."

Examiner's response:

First of all claim 18 recites "A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of composing a home page comprises distributing equipment unit presentations into daughter pages and forming a mother page with hyperlinks to the daughter pages."

Humbleman teaches in col. 7, line 49-58, "As previously stated, each home device connected to the home network has one or more associated HTML files. The HTML files for a respective home device define the control and command functions for that particular home device. Each HTML file may also contain embedded references to other related HTML files. A device connected to the home network that has a viewable display (e.g., screen) and employs the browser technology may receive and interpret the HTML files associated with the home devices connected to the home network, and graphically display the information contained therein using a GUI on its screen." , Humpleman also teaches in col. 13, line 50-51, "This device HTML file is then used as the device link page."

Thus, Humpleman teaches "composing a home page comprises distributing equipment unit presentations into daughter pages and forming a mother page with hyperlinks to the daughter pages." (col. 7, line 49-58, col. 13, line 50-51).

Applicant's argument:

F. Humpleman et al. does not disclose the requirements of claims 19.

"The relied on portion of Humpleman et al, is concerned with DHCP server 106. There is no mention in col. 11, lines 22-59 of digital TV 102 (or the equivalent structure of the other figures) that must be interpreted as the manager equipment unit. Hence, col. 11, lines 22-59 has no disclosure of the operations performed by the manager equipment unit of claim 19. Also, this portion of Humpleman et al. does not disclose thee limitations of claim 19 relating to the home page presentations."

Examiner's response:

Humpleman teaches as stated above, in col. 11, line 50-55, "In certain configurations, a plurality of home devices with DHCP server capabilities may exist on a single home network. Therefore, in certain embodiments, an arbitration protocol is employed to select and designate a particular home device to function as the DHCP server for the home network." Thereby the reference teaches that the third device (106) is not needed.

Humpleman teaches at col. 5, line 21-23, "a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the

second device." Thus Humpleman teaches two devices interacting, one being a primary equipment among the primary equipment units and the other being a manager equipment.

Thus, Humpleman teaches as claim 19 recites "composing home pages by the manager equipment unit, loading said composed home pages into primary equipment units, each of said home pages including the presentation of the respective primary equipment unit and presentations of applications in said manager equipment unit dedicated to the respective primary equipment unit." (col. 5, line 21-23, col. 11, line 50-55).

Applicant's argument:

G. Humpleman et al. does not disclose the requirements of claims 20.

"Humpleman et al. does not include the claim 20 requirement to download the home page from the manager equipment unit into all the primary equipment units as the home page for all the prime equipment units."

Examiner's response:

As stated above along with the specific teachings of the reference, Humpleman teaches at col. 5, line 21-23, "a first device fetches a GUI from a second device, to permit user interaction with the GUI to control the second device." Thus Humpleman teaches two devices interacting, one being a primary equipment among the primary equipment units and the other being a manager equipment. And Humpleman teaches in col. 7, line 49-58, "As previously stated, each home device connected to the home network has one or more associated

HTML files. The HTML files for a respective home device define the control and command functions for that particular home device. Each HTML file may also contain embedded references to other related HTML files. A device connected to the home network that has a viewable display (e.g., screen) and employs the browser technology may receive and interpret the HTML files associated with the home devices connected to the home network, and graphically display the information contained therein using a GUI on its screen.”, Humpleman also teaches in col. 13, line 50-51, “This device HTML file is then used as the device link page.”

Thus, Humpleman teaches “to download the home page from the manager equipment unit into all the primary equipment units as the home page for all the prime equipment units.” (col. 5, line 21-23, col. 7, line 49-58, col. 13, line 50-51).

Applicant's argument:

H. Humpleman et al. does not disclose the requirements of claims 23 and 30.

Humpleman et al. does not disclose the cards of claims 23 and 30.

Examiner's response:

Humpleman teaches in col. 6, line 10-23, “In this example, the DTV 102 provides the human interface for the home network 100 by employing browser technology to allow users to control and command the home devices over the home network 100. Unlike most other home devices that are typically connected to a home

network, the DTV 102 can provide the human interface for the home network 100 as it comprises a screen for displaying HTML pages. However other home devices having a display capability may be used to provide the human interface. Thus, in certain embodiments of the inventions, a device such as a personal computer ("PC") is used to provide the human interface for a respective home network, as a PC typically embodies a screen display unit."

Also as shown in Fig. 2, each client and server device has the physical layer shown as element 164.

Therefore, Humpleman does disclose the cards of claims 23 and 30.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashok B. Patel
Examiner
Art Unit 2154

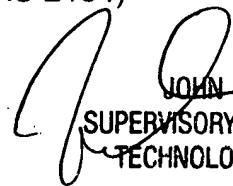
Application/Control Number: 09/719,370
Art Unit: 2154

Page 29

July 15, 2005

Conferees.

Follansbee, John, SPE (AU 2154)



JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Maung, Zarni, SPE (AU 2151)



ZARNI MAUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Customer No. 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314